



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE January 4, 2002

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

As a part of an expanded effort to protect the State's public water utilities from potential terrorist attacks, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is sponsoring twelve vulnerability assessment workshops for public water utilities that will be held in strategic locations around the state during the months of January and February. The Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Environmental Resources Training Center (ERTC) will coordinate and conduct the workshops. The intended audience for the workshops includes Illinois public water utility operators and city officials responsible for the security and safety of their water utilities. Topics include vulnerability assessment, emergency response, threat classification, and security methods. Materials will be provided that will assist attendees in performing vulnerability assessments for their water utilities. The registration cost for each workshop is \$25 and seating is limited. For registration information, call the ERTC at 618-650-2030.

<u>Workshop Locations</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times</u>
East Peoria	January 10	Noon – 4:00 pm
Springfield	January 11	8:00 am – Noon
Rockford	January 15	Noon – 4:00 pm
Moline	January 16	Noon – 4:00 pm
LaSalle	January 17	8:00 am – Noon
Champaign	January 31	Noon – 4:00 pm
Effingham	February 1	Noon – 4:00 pm
Carbondale	February 7	Noon – 4:00 pm
Edwardsville	February 8	8:00 am – Noon
Crystal Lake	February 26	Noon – 4:00 pm
Aurora	February 27	Noon – 4:00 pm
Joliet	February 28	8:00 am – Noon

- Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) Director Chamness, chair of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF), has formed an ITTF subcommittee to develop a recommendation for the distribution to first responders of chemical antidotes procured through the Governor's supplemental budget. The organizations assigned to the subcommittee included: Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Chicago Fire Department, Mutual-Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), and the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. The draft plan will be submitted to the ITTF for their review and approval on January 29.
- As of December 30, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Laboratories had received 1,531 samples for anthrax testing. All have been processed and are negative for anthrax.
- Over twenty senior Red Cross staff and volunteers will be attending a national Disaster Leadership Conference January 3-6 in Dallas, Texas, which will address training, resource management and other issues related to a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) event.
- Staff of the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) is coordinating with other state agencies on the development of expanded response mechanisms to meet potential threats from non-conventional hazards, including chemical and biological agents.
- The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) continues its work on developing a Regional Emergency Response Council as part of the USDA Grant to address animal diseases and emergencies. The IDOA is finalizing details for a meeting January 23-24, 2002, that will bring together the Department of Agriculture, Emergency Management, Veterinary Services, and others representing six states to develop the regional response plan.
- The Illinois Department of Public Health plans to release Version 2.0 of the State of Illinois National

Pharmaceutical Stockpile plan in the near future. The updated version will contain medical standing orders for administration of prophylaxis and treatment, flow charts to clarify response procedures, procedures for "first responder" antibiotic distribution, and updated hospital distribution information. IDPH has received local distribution plans for National Pharmaceutical Stockpile from the local health departments representing the eight largest population centers in Illinois; i.e., the City of Chicago and the following counties: Cook, Lake, Kane, Winnebago, DuPage, McHenry and Will. In December, IDPH forwarded a letter to the remaining local health departments in Illinois to ask them to develop a local distribution plan for their jurisdiction. IDPH has encouraged the use of multi-county planning jurisdictions, where possible, to maximize limited local resources. IDPH staff have developed a "model" local distribution plan, available through the IDPH Intranet, to assist local health departments with the preparedness planning. A deadline of February 1, 2002 has been set for the development of the local plans.

- The State Epidemiologist from the Illinois Department of Public Health attended a workshop at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta last month to learn about the CDC Interim Smallpox Response Plan and Guidelines. During the two-day event, attendees were provided detailed instruction on the preparedness activities of the CDC and the Federal guidelines for surveillance, contact tracing, and epidemiological investigations; vaccination; isolation; specimen collection and transport; communications plans and activities; and decontamination.